

**Minutes of Combined Groups of Walking Together**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 at 7.30pm. in Our Lady's Sacristy**

**Present:** Liz Mottram LM (Chair), David Tye DT, Claire Walsh CW, Veronica Drumgoole VMD, Anne Elson AE, Jenny Hayden JH, Anna Godwin AG, Margaret Dimambro MD, Jenny Armstrong JA, Mary Holden MH,  
**Apologies:** Jonathan Holden, Gill Parker.

The meeting opened with the Synod prayer.

**Matters Arising** from the last Minutes (25<sup>th</sup> September 2025)

- There was a Mass for people bereaved during the past year, held in November. It was not very well attended except for those who usually go. Carmel Cleary is writing cards on the anniversary of the death each month to bereaved families.
- MH reported that the welcoming guidelines had been issued to all those who were doing the role in the 3 parishes. She was unsure how to move forward any more on this **and would welcome help in doing this**. There was discussion about funeral masses where there are often many who are not familiar with responses etc. Order of Mass cards would help them in navigating the Mass. Could this be a welcomer's role? Canon David has expressed interest in moving the welcoming forward. The after-Mass refreshments were also pointed out as a good opportunity to welcome people and, ideally, introduce them to other people. JH always tries to discover who is new and give them a welcome and invite to come through after Mass at OL.
- AE reported that the top 10 priorities forwarded from this Group's previous meeting had been aired at the latest CPC meeting. These were noted and agreed that good progress had been made in actioning some of the points. Further discussion of ecumenical activities in discussion of CPC minutes, below.  
Priorities may have shifted in response to new initiatives, such as OL Vision.

**Discussion around reports from other meetings**

Walking Together steering group 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

- Post-it notes at Our Lady's had been put into a document and displayed around the church and hall. A bar chart summarises the responses with various comments included. LM asked if further sharing would be a good idea. **'Extra' was thought to be a good vehicle**. Liz will put this past Gill Ayers-Hunt before submitting to "Extra"
- At St Peter's, AE said that the notes had been analysed and collated. They were very supportive but not very helpful with no new ideas etc.
- Canon David's invitation to 'Conversation in the Spirit'? The question was asked if we need more 'gatherings' as in the first round of synodality? There was felt to be a lot going on with fundraising activity at both churches and 'Our Lady's Vision' involving meetings and planning. The better option might be to incorporate the philosophy of synodality into these meetings. CW suggested **terms of reference for groups** giving guidelines as to how to use the synodal approach. For example, there may be one topic in a meeting that would benefit from this approach so that everyone is listened to. This was seen as an excellent idea.
- Also, it may be possible **to spread good practice** such as the Sunday's readings study group, at present led by Jonathan Holden, and could be used elsewhere at a different time. Or could the approach be used in **some form of worship?**
- Diocesan guidance from Canon Fitzpatrick on synodality – the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January felt the plans were too remote from the parishioners and may not trickle down to the parishioners before the evaluation phase of the Synod.

## CPC Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

- Our Lady's Vision was reported, with its aim of getting everyone to participate in the life of the parish to help make it truly sustainable for the future. The first priority is the roof, which need to be done urgently.
- Ideas for mission and spiritual events were noted.
- Ecumenism and work with other churches was discussed. Churches Together in Leamington is not as active as it could be or used to be. There were only a few members from Catholic Leamington at the recent combined service for Christian Unity. Churches Together walks still take place most months followed by a lunch; a few parishioners attend those. Father Stephen has offered to host the combined service in 2027. It was pointed out we get a better attendance from our own parishioner when this happens - such as at Women's World Day of Prayer. The Warwick Churches Together holds activities every day during the week of Christian Unity.
- The need for discernment over the future use of the St. Peter's buildings was noted as a positive step in that process.

### **Dovetailing Our Lady's Vision with Walking Together**

- LM gave an example of a recent informal fundraising meeting where existing confusion was aired openly and a route to clarification was started and reached by repeated exchange of views.
- As described above, the Walking Together team wish to help to facilitate the evolution of meetings to include an element of 'Conversation in the Spirit' where participants will be encouraged to listen to each other.

### **Update on Outreach and Visiting Team**

- MD, AG and JH had met to discuss outreach and how to tackle it. Peter Dimambro was so proactive in making visits and following up the new parishioners, parents of children recently baptised etc. and we are thankful for his work and example. However, there are fewer people to make the visits and it is hard to find the right time to do this. Home visits should become a lower priority.
- There are examples of making new parishioners welcome after Mass in the coffee time and getting to know them a little, introducing them to others (described above).
- Leaflets were looked at:
  - the 'Why come back?' leaflet, which was very good and just needed updating,
  - the leaflet which gives information about the Parishes. It was felt that the schools should be on them for information. **Action needed on updating and printing**
- MD reported that the event for new parishioners which was to be in January will now be run with the Pentecost Party.
- The Outreach and Visiting Team will be liaising with the OL Vision Parish Life and Mission team.

### **Disability & Inclusion led by Fr Hudson's/Caritas**

Mary Holden belongs to a Diocesan working group on disability and inclusion.

Mary had introduced the draft version of the Audit on Disability and Inclusion to the parishes in the cluster for comment, which proved to be very helpful. As a result, further work was done, it is now to be considered by the Caritas steering committee on 26th January and for approval by the Archdiocese Trustees steering group meeting on May 1st.

AG had helped action the audit at Our Lady's and reported that there were areas that could be improved; some of these could be done quite quickly whereas others such as accessible toilets were part of the long-term vision and there was no quick fix. However, no progress thus far.

MH reported that the draft audit is now with the Caritas steering group for discussion on 26<sup>th</sup> January and in turn to the Archdiocese Trustees for approval at their meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The Disability and Inclusion group have also prepared a policy statement on Disability and Inclusion. This will also be on their agendas.

MH shared news of a Hand in Hand production of 'Hosanna' in St Chad's Cathedral on 7<sup>th</sup> March; people from Arundel and Brighton will be coming as well as Laura Godwin returning.

### **Lenten Study Group**

Following some discussions and correspondence with St Francis in Kenilworth it was decided that to do a course this Lent was too short notice, while there is willingness to share materials and approach.

**Therefore, it will not go ahead in 2026.** We should keep in touch with Martin Foley and his contact at St Francis, Simon Hill, if there is a wish to move this on for 2027.

LM had shared links to Sycamore Materials on Prayer, which might be on the agenda at a future meeting, though not followed up at this meeting.

### **Something Greater**

VMD and CW (who attended the first round of meetings) reported that they will be going to a meeting soon to discuss and plan another round of meetings. The previous sessions were fully subscribed.

### **AOB**

LM initiated a round of listening in a synodal way in order to share any other points that anyone wished to raise. Everyone responded individually to what they had heard in the meeting. One observation was that for the system to work there is an ideal size of group, not too large.

### **Next Meeting**

Walking Together Combined Group: 7.30pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at OL

The Walking Together Team Meeting: 7.30pm 7<sup>th</sup> May, venue tbc

**Meeting closed** at 9.10pm.